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NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 1991

Hello again. With another meeting coming up on I thought that it was timely to get out a reminder.

TUESDAY AUGUST 13 - MAIN FEATURE: GOING MY WAY

SUPPORTING FEATURES: 'THAT GOES DOUBLE', the rare early Russ Columbo short in which he plays himself and his twin. Songs include two of his most famous - 'Prisoner of Love' and 'You Call It Madness'. We're also screening 'THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN' - a colourised Betty Boop cartoon of the early 30s with a great Cab Calloway soundtrack, extracts from the British TV series 'Turns' which feature the only filmed performances by AL BOWLLY, plus appearances by bands such as Lew Stone, Roy Fox, etc, THE BOSWELL SISTERS singing 'Rock and Roll' and a couple of surprises.

Venue, as always, is the AMP Theatrette, Corner Bourke and William Streets, City with a starting time of 7.30 pm sharp.
MEMBERS: $6 PENSIONERS & STUDENTS: $4 NON-MEMBERS: $7

OCTOBER 8 - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Although we haven't decided which feature to show on the night yet, we're delighted to announce that we'll be honoured by the presence of distinguished British Crosby collector, Derek Parkes. Derek was one of the authors of the definitive Crosby discography of the 1960s 'The Road to Bing Crosby' and, as most members would be aware, currently supplies new Crosby releases to people around the world. He will be visiting Australia for a few weeks and will be in Melbourne from October 3rd - 10th. If you would like to write to Derek ahead of time, his address is 66 Firs Rd, Firsdown, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 1SW, England. We're organising a few people to show him round and maybe take him out for dinner, so if you have any free time, please let me know. Obviously, we'd like to co-ordinate things so that such arrangements don't clash and Derek gets to see as much as possible.

DECEMBER 3 - BING CROSBY - HIS LIFE AND LEGEND

(The best TV documentary tracing Bing's career) + FEATURE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

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. At last! The book you've always wanted to read on Bing - but the author needs your input. Norman Wolfe is Vice Chairman of one of America's largest public relations companies, Cohn & Wolfe. Norman is also a Crosby man who feels that it's time that the definitive biography of Bing was written and he is using his considerable talents and facilities to bring it into being. The book is still in the primary research stages but already Norman has spoken to everyone from Bing's childhood friends to his brother Bob.

Norman intends this book to tell the real story of Bing, avoiding the traps of generations of publicity stories and the hatchet approach of books such as 'The Hollow Man'.

For this, Norman needs your help - photocopies of clippings, reviews and commentaries that are unusual or interesting for new perspectives they can shed on Bing's career. All help will be acknowledged when the book comes out. I'll bring along Norman's information kit to our August meeting.

I think that this is one project to get behind and I intend to give it my full support. If you can help, write to Norman Wolfe, Cohn & Wolfe, 225 Peachtree St, NE/Atlanta, Georgia 30303, USA.

. With sadness we note the passing of member Bill Grenfell after a long illness. Bill had long been an active member of both the Crosby and Jolson societies and made a major contribution to both. We extend our sympathies to his family.

. Only a handful of new record issues to report at this time. Keeping the tattered LP flag flying are:

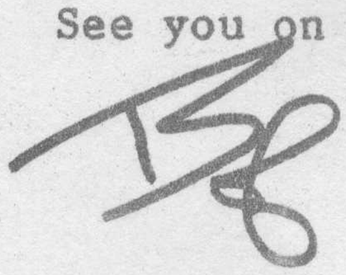
'The Chronological Bing Crosby Vol 13' - Jonzo JZ13. John NcNicholas is up to 1932 now, and this latest issue covers 'Starlight' (A & C takes), 'How Long Will it Last', 'Love You Funny Thing', 'My Woman', 'Shine', 'Face The Music Medley Part 1 (B & C takes), 'Shadows On The Window' (A & B takes), 'Paradise' (A & B takes), 'You're Still In My Heart', 'Lawd You Made The Night Too Long' (A & B takes).

Jimmy Dorsey Kraft Music Hall - Limited Edition Club JGB 1011
Ultra-rare 1936 radio material: 'Everything's In Rhythm With My Heart', 'You', 'If I Should Lose You', 'Where Are You', 'I'm Building Up To An Awful Letdown', 'All My Life', 'Say The Word And It's Yours', 'Long Ago And Far Away', 'Moon Over Miami', 'Moonrise On The Lowlands', 'Desire', 'Roll Along Prairie Moon', 'Lost', 'West Wind', 'Take My Heart', 'One Night in Monte Carlo'.

On the local front, there is a new CD on J&B Records which is being promoted via TV. Nothing too exciting, it features 50/50 Bing and Val Doonican. The Crosby tracks range from 1931's 'Blue of the Night' to Ken Barnes' re-processed 'Unchained Melody', obviously included to capitalise on the renewed popularity of the song via the movie 'Ghost'.

Rumour has it that a new Axis CD is in the offing combining 'That Travelling Two Beat' and the complete 'Bing & Louis' session. Stay tuned.

'High Society' is out in Japan on CD.

. Thank you to all those who enquired about the state of my health. Not too much good news on that front. Although I still work full time, I find it necessary to use a wheeled frame to get about, and my voice is a little shaky. I mention this only to warn members who attend our August meeting and who may not have seen me for some time.

See you on August 13th,